

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRIDGE 02894 291402Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 SSO-00 /032 W
-----130173 291414Z /46

O 281830Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4116

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 2894

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, BB

SUBJ: BARBADOS VISIT HIGHLIGHTS

1. A THREE DAY WORKING VISIT TO BARBADOS HAS DONE MUCH TO GET OUR RELATIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER ADAMS AND HIS GOVERNMENT BACK ON THE TRACKS, THOUGH BASE NEGOTIATION AND SOME OTHER ISSUES REMAIN UNRESOLVED. CARIBBEAN COOPERATION, BI-LATERAL AID, BELIZE, AND THE REGIONAL SECURITY SITUATION ALSO DISCUSSED.

2. BELIZE: FORMIN FORDE AND OTHERS WERE UNEQUIVOCAL IN THEIR SUPPORT FOR PM PRICE OF BELIZE AND HIS REFUSAL TO CONSIDER A TERRITORIAL CESSION TO GUATEMALA IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE EARLY INDPENDENCE. FORDE SAID NEITHER GOB NOR THE CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS WOULD LEAN ON PRICE TO ACCEPT CESSION. FORDE ALSO SAID THAT THE GOB HAS RELIABLE INFORMATION THAT CUBA DOES HAVE POSSIBLE AMBITIONS IN BELIZE, AND WONDERED WHETHER PRICE MIGHT NOT DECIDE TO ACCEPT CUBAN MILITARY AND SECURITY ASSISTANCE AS A DESPERATION MEASURE, THOUGH GOB AND OTHER CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS WOULD CONTINUE TO ADVISE HIM AGAINST IT. FORDE AND OTHERS ALSO MADE PLAIN THAT THEY BELIEVE USG INFLUENCE IN GUATEMALA IS STRONG ENOUGH TO FORCE A SOLUTION WITHOUT CESSION IF WE WISH. I ASSURED THEM WE ARE IN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRIDGE 02894 291402Z

NO POSITION TO FORCE A SOLUTION ON EITHER PARTY. OUR ONLY WISH IS TO SEE A PEACEFUL, NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT ALONG LINES THAT WOULD PERMIT BELIZE TO ENJOY FULLNESS OF INDEPENDENCE WITHOUT HAVING TO LIVE IN CONSTANT FEAR OF ATTACK. PROPOSED ARRANGEMENT WITH SMALL TERRITORIAL CESSION SEEMS BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE THIS BUT FINAL DECISION NOT FOR US TO MAKE.

3. CARIBBEAN COOPERATION AND BI-LATERAL ASSISTANCE:

IN A THREE HOUR DISCUSSION ON CARIBBEAN COOPERATION I CLARIFIED OUR PROPOSALS AND CORRECTED SOME MISCONCEPTIONS. GOB STRESSES CRITICAL BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS IN THE REGION BUT RECOGNIZES ATTENTION MUST BE GIVEN TO LONG RUN DEVELOPMENT LEST BOP PROBLEMS PERPETUATE OR REPEAT THEMSELVES. GOB WILL PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE DECEMBER IBRD MEETING AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL. GOB DISTRESS OVER THE ABSENCE OF ANY BI-LATERAL AID PROGRAM IN BARBADOS ALSO EMERGED DURING DISCUSSIONS. FORDE POINTED OUT THAT PER CAPITA INCOME IN BARBADOS IS ABOUT THE SAME AS JAMAICA WHERE WE ARE ASSISTING AND, WHILE BOP PROBLEM IN BARBADOS IS NOT SO SERIOUS BECAUSE OF THE CAREFUL MANAGEMENT OF THEIR RESOURCES, THEY HAVE OTHER CRITICAL NEEDS. EVEN A SMALL US BI-LATERAL PROGRAM WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED. HE INDICATED BELIEF THAT GOB IS BEING DISCRIMINATED AGAINST PRECISELY BECAUSE IT IS RESPONSIBLE. I REMINDED HIM OF RECENT VISIT OF AID TEAMS AND PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITIES BASED ON THEIR FINDINGS.

4. NAVAL FACILITY:

GOB IS NOT YET READY TO SETTLE FOR OUR OFFER OF \$750,000 ANNUAL RENT. HOWEVER, IT HAS BACKED OFF FROM ITS EARLIER EXCESSIVE DEMANDS, AND IN THE COURSE OF OUR DIS-

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BRIDGE 02894 291402Z

CUSSIONS, WHICH WERE QUITE AMICABLE, GOB AGREED TO ALLOW THE FACILITY TO CONTINUE OPERATIONS FOR AN ADDITIONAL YEAR WHILE WE SEEK A SOLUTION. IT WAS OBVIOUS THEY WOULD SETTLE TOMORROW FOR \$1 MILLION ANNUAL RENTAL. I MADE CLEAR THAT THIS IS MORE THAN THE MARGINAL VALUE OF THE FACILITY TO DOD. HOWEVER, I PROMISED TO LOOK FURTHER INTO QUESTION IN EFFORT TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THIS THORNY ISSUE. BARBADIANS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN HAVING US MILITARY PRESENCE CONTINUE BUT STRESSED THAT, AS POLITICIANS, THEY MUST SHOW THERE IS REASONABLE RETURN TO THE COUNTRY.

5. SECURITY.

FORMIN FORDE EXPRESSED REAL ALARM OVER THE POTENTIAL SECURITY PROBLEM IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN WHEN THE UK FINALLY PULLS OUT, GIVEN THE RECENT TENDENCY OF CUBA TO EXTEND ITS INFLUENCE IN THE REGION AND THE COMPLETE VULNERABILITY OF THE SMALL ISLAND STATES AS THEY BECOME INDEPENDENT. HE SAID THAT HIS OWN GOVERNMENT HAD REPEATEDLY TURNED DOWN REQUESTS FROM THE USSR AND THE PRC TO ESTABLISH PERMANENT MISSIONS IN BARBADOS BECAUSE THEY SIMPLY COULD NOT AFFORD THE RESOURCES TO

MONITOR THOSE MISSIONS. HE ASKED WHAT WE COULD DO
TO HELP FILL THE SECURITY VACUUM IN THE AREA, PERHAPS IN
COOPERATION WITH OTHERS, WHEN THE BRITISH LEAVE. I TOLD
HIM THIS KIND OF ISSUE WAS EXTREMELY TRICKY, BUT THAT
I APPRECIATED HIS CONCERN. I SAID THAT I WOULD HOLD
CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER USG AGENCIES ON MY RETURN AND
EVENTUALLY WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS.
ORTIZ

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION COORDINATED WITH MR. SUMMERS, S/S-O

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRIDGE02894
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770441-1215
Format: TEL
From: BRIDGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771115/aaaaalzd.tel
Line Count: 125
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2cc5be10-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 437947
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BARBADOS VISIT HIGHLIGHTS
TAGS: PINT, OVIP, PGOV, BB, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2cc5be10-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009